

# How to catch a turkey\*

From the New York Times Bestselling Team  
Adam Wallace & Andy Elkerton

\* No turkeys were harmed in the making of this book









# How to Catch a **Turkey**

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Here we are on **THANKSGIVING DAY.**

It's that special time of year.

Yes, I know, I am a turkey,  
that much should be clear.



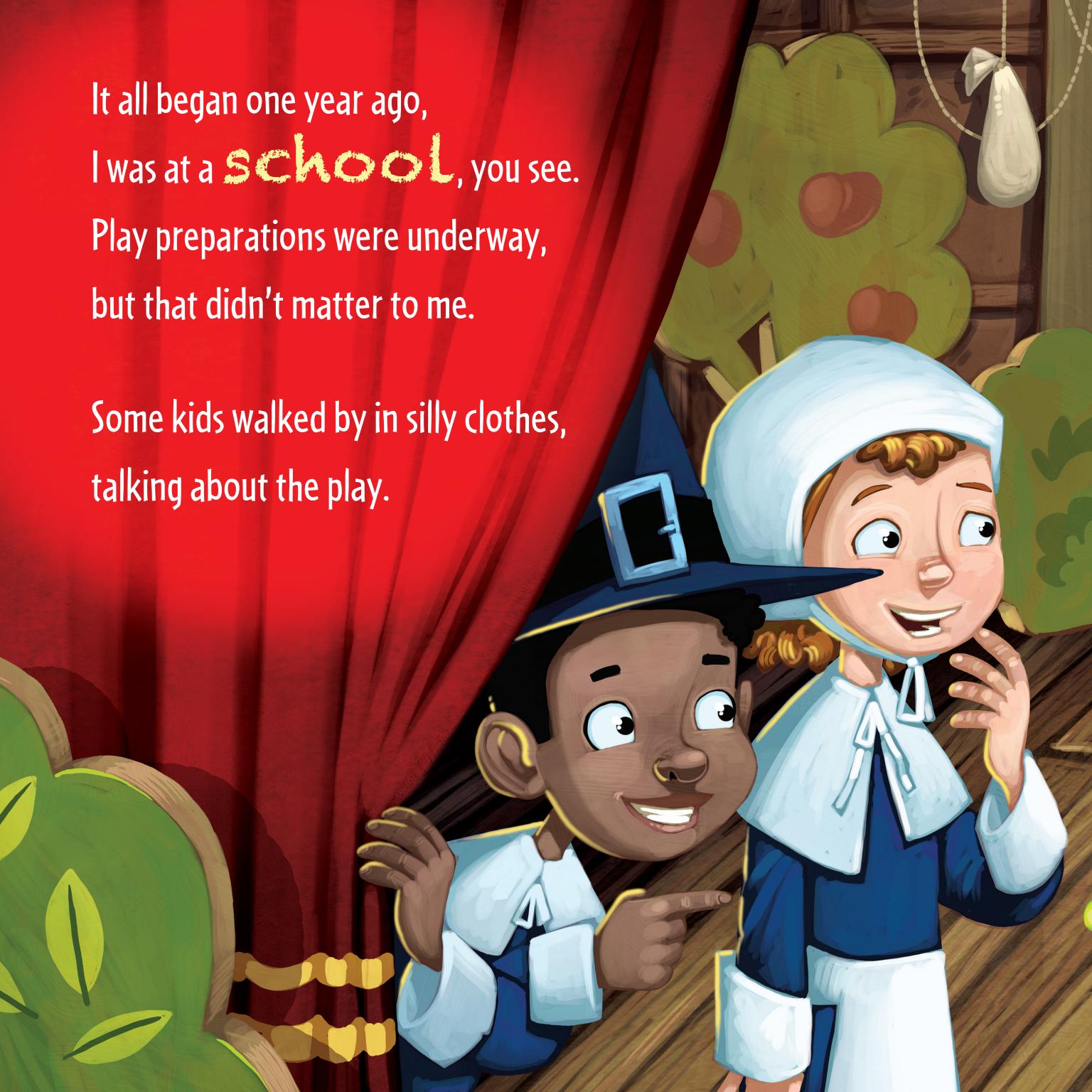


So gather 'round, I have a tale,  
and it's really quite a story—  
What I tell you now is not a joke,  
it is my *crowning* glory.

It all began one year ago,  
I was at a **school**, you see.

Play preparations were underway,  
but that didn't matter to me.

Some kids walked by in silly clothes,  
talking about the play.



"We'll even have a *turkey* on stage!  
It's perfect for Thanksgiving Day!"



Turkey? Stage? No way! No how!

Had I *really* heard that right?

I broke out of my pen and ran away

with a case of bad **STAGE FRIGHT!**







I burst into the science room,  
knocked over flasks and beakers,

and the cry of, “**Catch that turkey!**”  
boomed over the loudspeakers.



So now more children joined the chase  
with catapults and food.





But their **goopy** mashed potatoes  
weren't enough to keep me glued!





Up next, there was a **MAZE** of books  
that stretched from wall to wall.  
But with a big hop and a mighty flap,  
I managed to escape it all!



I ducked past chairs and bags and desks—  
now that was quite the trick!

The kids thought they could stop me here,  
but I was much too **QUICK!**





I ran outside to the **jungle gym**,  
thinking I could hide.

But the recess yard was all tricked out—  
I'd have better luck inside!





Finally the kids gave up  
but the **principal** gave chase.  
My only hope of escaping her  
was keeping up my pace!





I slid into the coach's room,  
and crashed into a chair.

I got TANGLED up in jerseys  
but I won't get stuck in there!





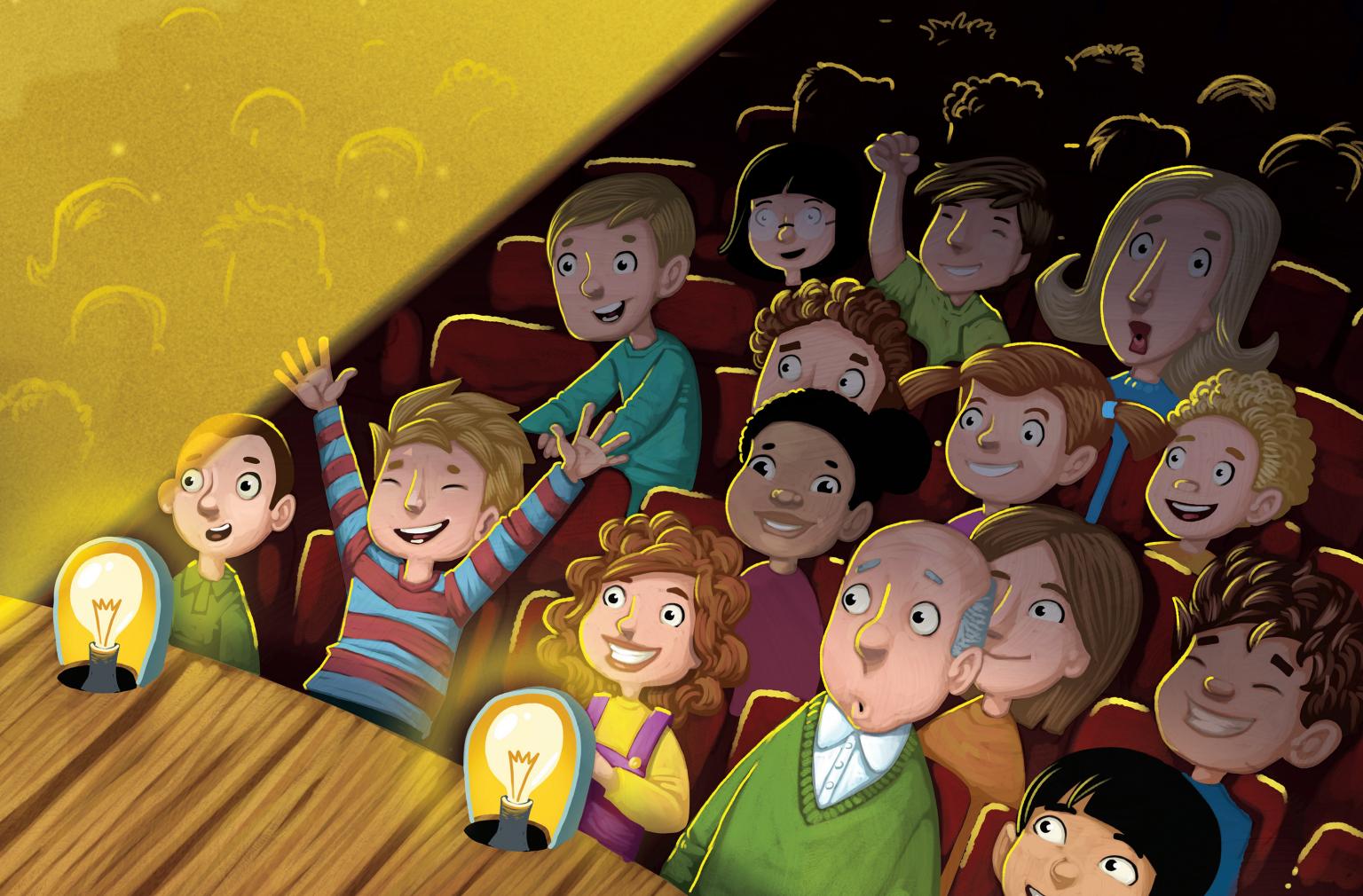




I ran into a curtain–  
there was nowhere else to go!  
I couldn't get past the principal,  
but the curtain led to the **SHOW.**



My heart was racing, I started to sweat,  
I couldn't **SQUAWK** or run...



I took a deep breath. *I can do this!*  
Who knows? This might be **FUN**.



A kid stood up and pointed,  
“Oh my gosh! He’s so **cute!**”

“He really is,” a parent agreed,  
“in his little mascot suit!”



I started to smile and even dance,



while the crowd continued to cheer.



I was filled with joy that I took the chance,

and  
that's what  
started my

**MASCOT  
CAREER!**



A vibrant illustration of six diverse children in Thanksgiving-themed costumes. From left to right: a Black boy in a maroon and yellow football uniform; a white boy in a maroon and yellow Native American-style outfit with a large feathered headdress; a white girl in a Pilgrim bonnet; a white boy in a maroon and yellow Native American-style outfit with a large feathered headdress; a white girl in a blue dress with a cornucopia necklace; and a white boy in a maroon and yellow Native American-style outfit with a large feathered headdress. They are all smiling and holding a large yellow sign with the text "HAPPY THANKSGIVING, everyone!" in brown and black letters.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING,  
everyone!

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The art was first sketched, then painted digitally with brushes designed by the artist.

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Thanksgiving time is here again,  
but there's a turkey on the run!

Can you catch this tricky bird  
before the school play has begun?



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